OPINION
All Words and No Action
Genevieve Shuster '20 calls out trend of Twitter slacktivism on **page 5**

FEATURES
Mr. Hamilton 2017
Find out who won the most prestigious award this College offers on **page 8**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
New Exhibit at Wellin
Read about Julia Jacquette's insight on appearance and consumerism on **page 10**

The Spectator

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017
Volume LVII
Number 17

Refugee Solidarity Rally in Utica draws student support

by Emily Eisler '17
News Editor

PHOTO BY LILLY YANGCHEN '20

Students hold up signs in support of refugees at rally in Utica, NY.

Hamilton students joined members of all ages from the Utica and surrounding communities for the Refugee Solidarity Rally on Feb. 10, held to show the city's support for the its refugee population, as well as for all of those affected by President Donald Trump's immigration ban, often aso refered to as a "Muslim ban." Hamilton's Spiritual Inquiry Group as well as Student Assembly both funded transportation for students to attend. Members of Hamilton's student group On the Move, which works with refugees in Utica, attended the rally as well at Utica's Oneida Square.

Rainbow co-chair Polly Bruce '17

*see **Rally**, page 3*

Hamilton Community members gather for Planned Parenthood

by Rylee Carrillo-Waggoner '19
News Editor

On Thursday, Feb. 9, Hamilton community members came together for a "party with a purpose." While participants ate brownies, Opus cookies, cheese and guacamole, they also thought of the ways in which they could aid Planned Parenthood and prevent its being defunded. Besides a handful of male faculty members, the room was filled with women. Half were faculty and staff and the other half were students, although a significant majority of these students were seniors. Still, faculty members expressed appreciation that students were interested in being involved in this fight.

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Katheryn Doran, organized the event. She requested that "Hamilton students and other members of the community committed to to women's health and reproductive rights: please come together for a post inauguration Grassroots Planning Session." Beth LeGere, Director of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson was initially scheduled to lead the discussion. However, as consequence of the snowy weather, LeGere was unable to make it.

Doran started off the event speaking about the local branch of Planned Parenthood, Mohawk Hudson. The Mohawk Hudson branch covers 11 counties and has a total of 10 centers, reaching as far east as the Massachusetts border. In Utica alone, over 7,000 people are seen. Clients are going for basic health care services such as routine annual exams, STI testing, behavioral health services (including addiction, a larger issue in Utica), birth control, colonoscopies and abortion services.

Planned Parenthood has a very high approval rate, especially when compared to other healthcare systems. Hillary Clinton called Planned Parenthood the most trusted service for abortions, sexual assault victim aid and hormone adjustment medication. In the Mohawk Hudson branch, Doran explains, "only seven percent of our funding comes from federal funding but this quickly adds up." While reproductive rights used to cross party lines, such is no longer the case. Doran goes on to note that the only thing that stopped a loss of funding last cycle was Obama's veto, an act very unlikely to happen this time around. This will affect health centers here and across the nation.

Doran then shifted the conversation to a dialogue about "your sphere of influence," and what impact those in the room can make. She noted that many struggle as they want to focus on the biggest issues at hand, however "some of the places where you're likely to have the most impact is unglamorous at the local level... think hard about your local reps and how you as a constituent can keep them accountable."

Planned Parenthood has a text number to which one can subscribe to receive a list of daily tasks one can do to show support for the organization. These are simple tasks such as calling your local representative. The text provides not only the number and name of representatives but also a brief description of issues about which to speak them. A student in attendance related this to #WhereisClaudiaTenney. District Representative Claudia Tenney has been critiqued for her support in some cases, and lack of pushback in others, in regards to many of the Trump administration's action. The hashtag is a critique of her inaccessibility in person, online and over phone.

*see **Planned Parenthood**, page 3*

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX STROEMER '18

Symphor!a plays at the hands of conductor Lawrence Loh.

Symphor!a to perform this weekend in Wellin Hall

by Melanie Snyder '19
A&E Editor

The remarkable and somewhat unusual symphony orchestra, Symphor!a, will be performing this Sunday Feb. 19, at Wellin Hall at 3p.m.

Symphor!a is unique in that it originally emerged from the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, an orchestra that declared bankruptcy in April of 2011. Players who were committed to the orchestra who refused to see it fully dissolve started Sympor!a as an extension of the original orchestra with most of the same musicians. Today it is a player-run organization of accomplished and dedicated musicians.

Professor of Comparative Literature Rabinowitz, a member of the Artistic Operations Committee, commented on the devoutness of the players stating, "this is not a job but a commitment." They are currently on their fifth full season and will be performing this weekend with conductor Lawrence Loh.

The soloist in this Sunday's performance, Elina Vähälä, is a professional Finnish classical violinist. According to elinavahala.com, she has performed at a variety of notable concerts including the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony that was televised to a worldwide audience.

*see **A&E**, page 11*

Hamilton and other area colleges join Utica Refugee Rally

from **Rally,** *page 1*

reacted, "There was a really great turnout! A lot of locals and a fair amount of Hamilton students showed up to chant inclusive messages. Even people driving by in cars honked their horns or shouted in support!" Bruce's co-chair, Charlie Cross '19 added, "It was really heartening to see a good number of people there in protest. And when cars honked in support as they drove by there was a sense of community and hope as we all cheered in response. The best thing was hearing residents of Utica who are refugees talking about their experiences and what it meant to them to take part in this show of solidarity.

The rally featured speakers from the refugee community talking about their experiences while passing a microphone around the crowd. Many of the stories focused on families waiting to be reunited and on discrimination people had suffered for their race, ethnicity, or religion. Jamil Alhilali, Yemen-native and long-time American citizen who has lived in Utica for years, spoke about the years he had spent trying to get his family approved to join him in the United States. The business owner told stories of his children asking everyday when they would finally get to see him after six years of waiting. The event lasted for three hours and was also dedicated to everyone in the world suffering from President Trump's policies discriminating against immigrants and nationals from Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, Syria, Iraq and Iran. Marchers led chants of "No ban! No wall!" and "This is what Utica looks like!" as well as patriotic songs to show support for unity instead of divisive fighting.

This is one of several anti-Trump rallies and civil action projects happening in the local area in the past few weeks. On Tuesday of last week, activists who had gone to the Women's March event in D.C. the day after Trump's inauguration held a community meeting to brainstorm ideas for more community action to fight the administration's policies, especially those affecting women. Hamilton students were eager to be in attendance in order to plan how they can bring change to the campus as well as the community as a whole.

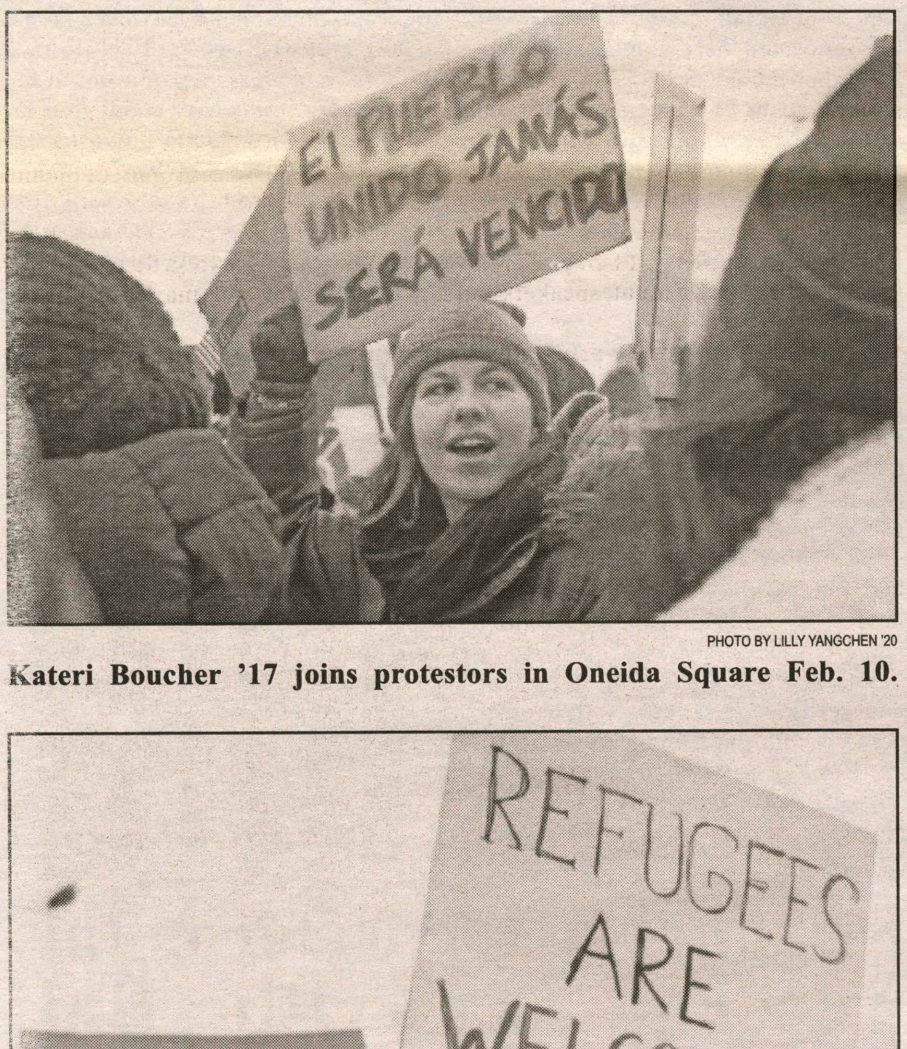


PHOTO BY LILLY YANGCHEN '20

Kateri Boucher '17 joins protestors in Oneida Square Feb. 10.

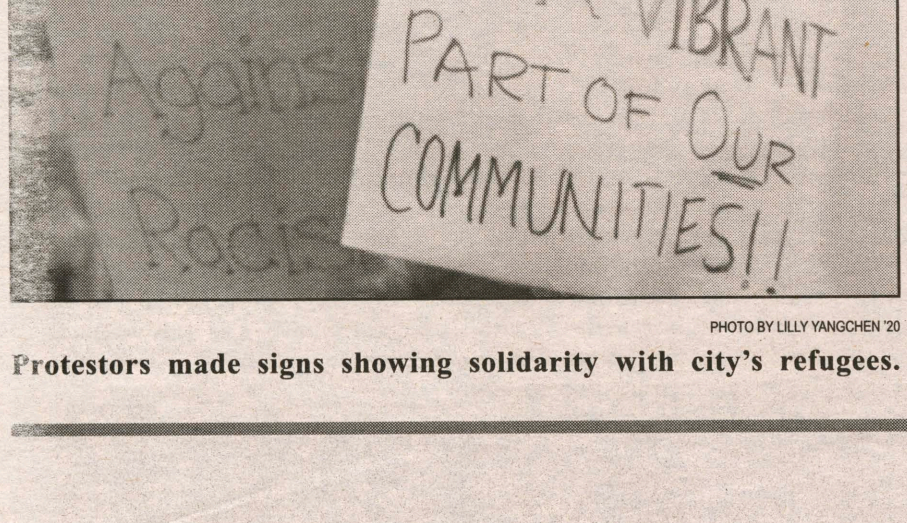


PHOTO BY LILLY YANGCHEN '20

Protestors made signs showing solidarity with city's refugees.

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Emily Eisler '17
News Editor

Wesleyan students create phone bank to increase civic engagement on campus

Wesleyan University students Jacob Karlin '17 and Olivia Morris '18 created what they are calling the "#CallToAction" phone bank at the school in order to help students contact their state and local representatives about issues that they are concerned about. The phone bank occurs weekly, with each session centering on a specific topic. Currently, the students are focusing on state level government, where they believe they will have the most success. The leaders began to brainstorm ideas for the bank shortly after the election and participants are growing in number each week.

Amherst President condemns Trump's "Muslim Ban" after protest from college community

Amherst College President Carolyn "Biddy" Martin released a statement reacting to student outcry after Trump's travel and immigration ban. In the statement she asked top administrators to work to protect immigrant and refugee students outlined Amherst's further plans to support its international community. Martin also declared her opposition to the ban overall. She also arranged for the college's legal counsel to be available to students for immigration purposes.

Connecticut College hosts annual Green Dot Week

Green Dot Week occured from Feb. 3-9 at Connecticut College, focusing on activities and events to raise awareness of violence prevention. The Green Dot program is the college's bystander intervention education against stalking and domestic, sexual and dating violence. Sports teams dedicated games to awareness and the dining hall had a Green Dot themed dinner complete with decorations and souvenirs. The group began in 2010 and participation has increased each year.

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Annual Feb Fest Week proves successful yet again

by Emily Eisler '17
News Editor

This year's Feb Fest is looking to best past years' by combining new events with past Fest's greatest hits.

The Fest kicked off with the annual Delta Upsilon Annex Valentine's affair on the night of Friday Feb. 10, "DU Want to Be My Valentine?" The next day the Inter-Society Council held a philanthropy event titled the Charity Fun(d) Fest. The night of competition benefitted Planned Parenthood, Be The Match, No One Left Behind, and the Midtown Utica Community Center. They raised a lot of the money through entry fees and the competitions consisted of relay races and orientation games. Sunday's HamSkate was cancelled due to inclement weather, but Monday night more than made up for the pause in the festivities. The Little Pub held a local beverage tasting for students over 21 before the annual Mr. Hamilton pageant. Contestant Brian Burns '17 commented, "It was a great experience to do in my senior year and I hope people liked my performance." Students afterward were able to hit up Commons for Midnight Breakfast, although it only went until 11:30p.m.

Valentine's Day hosted a chocolate tasting in Sadove at the same time as a Valentine Making Station sponsored by HAVOC. Later that night both the annual FEMME and Banff Mountain Film Festival events occured. FEMME featured women and those not identifying with the gender binary performing monologues on various issues while the Banff Festival, put on by the Outing Club and Glen House, showed winter sports films.

Feb. 15 held the most talked about event, CAB's comedian guest Pete Davidson from Saturday Night Live after another Pub beverage tasting event. Feb. 16 will have it's own CAB event with an Acoustic Coffeehouse featuring Oh Land, and that afternoon, Sadove will host a Cheese Tasting. Finally, Friday Feb. 17 will finish off the week with a Happy Hour at the Little Pub, an a capella concert, and the renowned Rocky Horror Party in the Annex.

PHOTO BY EMILY EISLER '17

CAB advertises for Feb Fest week of activities.

Adminstration issues their own response to election

from **Planned Parenthood,** *page 1*

There is also a group in Utica called "Claudia Tenney: One and Done" that vows that Tenney will not be a public hearing without a member from the group also there, asking her the hard questions that need to be addressed.

One woman recommended *Invisible Guy*, a book written by former congressional staffers to be a practical guide for resisting the Tump Agenda and a how-to guide to get congressmen to listen. She summarized that phone calls are in fact the most important form of communication and that one should call both their local and Washington D.C. office. The book also highly recommends providing identification to prove that one is a constituent because that gives more weight to one's opinion.

The conversation then moved to the rally which would follow the next day in Utica. Many refugees use Planned Parenthood and as such the rally provided a great way to simultaneously show support to Planned Parenthood and the people it serves.

Barbara Perego '17 then announced the new PPGen (Planned Parenthood Generation) group chartered on campus. She asked, "What is the most helpful way for us as a chapter to get our resources and help the local Planned Parenthood?" All participants brainstormed, coming up with actions on the Hill, such as a Planned Parenthood edition trivia night, speakers and a film series, as well as actions off the Hill such as volunteer and counter protesting anti-abortion protesters outside of the clinics.

The event ended on this brainstorming note, with participants thinking in ways to make their message heard. Doran stated, "the Hamilton campus needs to be active in support of Planned Parenthood." So talk to the people you know who aren't activists, says Doran. Get more people involved and in support so that our mission may grow.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator.* Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Friday, February 3

12:20 A.M.	Trouble Alarm – Bundy West
2:22 P.M.	Smoke Detector – Dunham Hall
5:21 P.M.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
7:08 P.M.	Heat Detector – Bundy East
7:49 P.M.	Area Check – Saunders House
8:53 P.M.	Smoke Detector – Bundy West
9:35 P.M.	Trespass/Arrest – Alumni Gym
10:36 P.M.	Smoke Detector – Wertimer House
11:06 P.M.	Motor Vehicle Accident – College Hill and State Rt. 233
11:20 P.M.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
11:33 P.M.	Area Check – North Lot

Saturday, February 11

12:13 A.M.	Medical Emergency – Tolles Pavilion
12:13 A.M.	Disorderly Conduct – Tolles Pavilion
12:54 A.M.	Smoke Detector – McIntosh Hall
1:21 A.M.	Medical Emergency – Sadove Center
4:07 P.M.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
5:32 P.M.	Mechanical Issue – 20 CHR
6:24 P.M.	Mechanical Issue – Carnegie Hall
8:46 P.M.	Vehicle/Traffic Violation – Root Lot
10:20 P.M.	Lost Property – Fieldhouse

Sunday, February 12

12:28 A.M.	Noise Complaint – Eells House
1:24 A.M.	Area Check – C&D Lot
2:47 A.M.	Disorderly Conduct/Noise – Ferguson House

In Defense of College Journalism

"Know Thyself." For over 200 years, Hamilton's motto has inspired students to cultivate and appreciate their own abilities and interests. At every college and university, few forums inspire community engagement and development of thoughtful self-expression better than student-run publications. Student media stands as an important outlet for student perspectives on issues that genuinely matter to them.

"The college years" mark a transition from adolescence to maturity and independence. In the classroom, professors provide pupils with the fundamental skills of intelligent communication and analysis. Student-run publications are a platform upon which this knowledge can be transformed into practice. This freedom to explore an individual voice and construct a distinct style is only granted when students are empowered with a sense of agency and responsibility for the message they deliver.

From the Style Guide to the formatting to the writing to the multi-step editorial process, *The Spectator* relies on student innovation and commitment. We hold ourselves accountable for the work we produce and the reactions it may provoke, and we take pride in knowing that our work reflects the student body's interests.

The Spectator

Editor-in-Chief
Haley Lynch

Managing Editor
Madeleine Maher

News Editors
Emily Eisler
Rylee Carrillo-Waggoner

Opinion Editors
Will Kaback
Lona Sniderman

Features Editors
Molly Geisinger
Cilly Geranios

A&E Editors
Kyandreia Jones
Melanie Snyder

Sports Editors
Patrick Malin
Levi Lorenzo

Photography Editors
Michelle Chapman
Dan Tu

Production Editors
Natalie Adams
Nora Boyle
Sophie Gaulkin
Meredith Jones
Mairead O'Neill
Bethany Vickery

Senior Editors
Cesar Renero
Ilana Schwartz

Web Editors
Kelsey Babcock
John Carroll
Krishna Kahn

Advertising Manager
John Wertimer

Social Media Director
Jessica Halladay

Illustrator
Heidi Wong

Copy Editors:

Emma Anderson, Cam Blair, Jack Carroll, Stefanie Chin, Kate Mullin, Kelsie Sausville, Jessica Shields, Taylor Wallace, Hannah Young

The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

Visit _The Spectator_ online:

students.hamilton.edu/spectator

facebook.com/hcspectator

The Spectator is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.

Please Recycle Your Copy of *The Spectator*

Celebrating 169 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1848.*

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Current late-night jitney policy for underage students encourages unsafe behavior

by Paul Giuliano '19
Opinion Contributor

Clinton, New York has always been the home of Hamilton College. This quaint, cozy central New York location is a key part of the identity of the college. Students attend Hamilton for its outstanding academics, fantastic alumni base and abundance of academic and professional resources, but also to experience life in Clinton. A big part of that experience is the night life. Every weekend, hordes of students flock to Clinton in the late hours of the night to adventure down the Hill. Some head to the local bars, while others grab some food or seek additional escapades. Regardless of students' intentions, those under 21 face a difficult obstacle: no access to the Jitney.

For students who do not intend to drink and do not have access to a car, but want to visit Clinton after 10:00 pm, there is only one choice: an extensive, frigid walk down the often slippery and dangerous Hill. The college is doing these students a disservice by not allowing them access to Clinton late at night on the weekends.

For the other under-21 students who are heading to the local bars downtown, they are faced with a difficult obstacle. Most students start drinking up on the Hill before heading into Clinton. That leaves a drunken, rambunctious group left to figure out how they will be getting downtown. A common idea is to find a sober friend to drive someone's car. This can be particularly difficult, however, as many are unavailable due to early morning sports practices or busy nights in the library. Most times, the search for a driver is a failure. At this point, some students may feel pressured to offer up the least drunk person to drive. If students are unable to find a sober driver and elect to wrongly put a buzzed or intoxicated driver behind the wheel of an over-packed car, it is a disaster waiting to happen. Unfortunately, if this trend keeps up it is only a matter of time before something tragic happens. While I can't speak to this specific type of behavior occurring on campus, it is certainly a possibility given the circumstances. I have heard second and third accounts of this exact scenario occurring and this is certainly something the school doesn't want to enable by restricting underage students access to the Jitney.

If you are lucky enough to find a sober driver then you are left with the task of finding an available vehicle. If you are with a large number of people, odds are someone is bound to have a car. However, a new problem then arises. The driver is forced to squeeze seven to nine people (or more) into a car that only fits five. Packing a tiny car with extra people in each seat (or stuffing people into the trunk) doesn't provide the safest trip down the black ice-covered road to Clinton.

To that point, students trying to walk downtown face the hazardous Hill, which, in an intoxicated state, could be even more dangerous than one might think. From my experience travelling up the Hill, I can recall nights where students slipped and slid down the paths. On some rare occasions, when the sidewalks aren't sufficiently cleared, some students have elected to travel using the road. Clearly, this is not a safe practice.

A counterargument to my case might be that the 8:00-10:00 pm Jitney is still available to underage students. That may be the case, but dropping off students hours before the nightlife scene begins may not be the best idea. Having a large number of students loitering in downtown Clinton for hours doesn't reflect well on the College. Also, after many recent attempts to take this Jitney myself, I found that the arrival of the Jitney does not always match the stated schedule. Often it runs late, most likely due to the bus driving slower than the daytime vans. In any case, not being on schedule has caused Sadove to get crowded with boisterous students, often creating a loud and distracting scene for other students in the building. Broadening access to the late night Jitney could help alleviate this problem.

If underage students are heading to downtown on the weekends whether or not they can use the Jitney, then why restrict them from using the service in the first place? You are simply forcing them to create more dangerous measures to get downtown. By allowing them to use the Jitney, you are assuring that students will safely arrive. This will also deter students from hazardously over packing the cars, as well as strongly discouraging drunk driving. Expand Jitney access for the well-being of the whole community.

Twitter fingers make little difference: activism on social media just the first step

by Genevieve Shuster '20
Opinion Contributor

I often see posts on my Facebook feed that begin with something like "I hardly ever make political posts but…" or "I never even post on Facebook but…". And usually what follows is a political article or video that evidently captivated the sharer or poster so intensely that he or she simply couldn't scroll past it without some form of action. I myself have shared a few articles and videos (in the feminism realm, for example).

It's hard not to. You see something that moves you and makes you feel like somebody else understands your frustrations. So, you share. And sometimes you feel so angry that you can't just let it go to waste, and you have to write up your own thoughts and put them out there. And maybe afterwards, even if you know you aren't making a world of change, you feel a little better. But problems arise when these actions make us feel like we are making a difference.

Many of us have heard talk of the Hamilton 'Bubble,' but this echo-chamber of ideas isn't limited to Hamilton's campus. When we share things on Facebook, anybody who clicks on your article or reads your post probably already shares your opinions. This kind of cyclical sharing reinforces the bubble and fails to encourage the kind of communication between people of differing opinions that we so desperately need right now. Additionally, it doesn't foster understanding, it simply riles up toxic hatred that is often unproductive and matures into a bitterness that cannot be channeled into anything. No matter how passionate you are, anger that doesn't translate to action is basically debris in the way of the fight for social justice. That's the major concern with social media bubbles—when we get that sense of satisfaction because we feel like we're reaching people, it make us feel active when really we're moving things backwards.

The false feeling that we are making a contribution to a social justice movement by sharing anti-this or pro-that internet content is dangerous. While we are not necessarily doing anything bad, we're also not contributing very much to the cause.

There are much better ways to effect change. Social movements need active, dedicated participants. Even though we can sometimes delude ourselves into believing that we can make the necessary changes from behind our computer screens, if we think a little harder we know it's just a lame proxy for real action.

I'm not advocating for the absence of politics on social media. At all. I like my hyper-liberal political rants as much as anybody else. Pushing our agendas on social media can make us feel better and even introduce us to relevant, stimulating content, but just pressing "send" or "share" is not enough. There is value in sharing opinions, in outwardly demanding justice and declaring ourselves part of the fight. But we actually have to act on it too. It's about the follow-up. There are on-campus groups and larger charitable organizations to support, marches to attend, votes to be cast, phone calls to be made. There's no harm in utilizing social media as long as we follow up by engaging our communities and respectfully approaching those who don't share our opinions. The other half of action is coming together, not only with those who share our views, but also with those who do not.

Making progress in social movements is about making America a more equal place as a whole, not encouraging hate of "the other side" that deepens the chasm between people of differing ideologies. Social media does not have to be a bad thing for social movements, but it's dangerous when we tell ourselves it's enough. If we can harness social media as a platform to organize real change as opposed to a dumping ground for our grievances, it can become a valuable tool in the ongoing fight for social justice.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down
Foods with seeds.	Foods with pits.
Working on school desktops.	Working on personal laptops.
Dr. Scholl's sandals.	Birkenstocks.
Completely empty common rooms devoid of all decoration.	Cozy common rooms which show signs of life and love.
Real coffee.	Kombucha.
Fragments.	Narrative.

by Tara Cicic '18

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

College community must continue to address culture of mental health stigmatization

by Grace Ward '17
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

I started having issues with my mental health around middle school. Each time I brought it up to my mom, she would tell me that as long as I was able to function in school I didn't need help. That mentality stuck with me for a long time. As the years went by, I realized that I wasn't the only person who thought this way and that there was an implicit social perspective on how people with mental illnesses should function on a daily basis. If you can get up every day and face the world, then you don't have an issue. However, insisting on this mentality results in a problem where one day, you can't get up and face the world and you just don't know what to do with yourself.

Despite the considerable expansion of medical care for mental health problems, talking about issues of mental health is still a societal taboo. It's a well-known fact at Hamilton that over half of the student body will seek help at the counseling center at some point, yet we still have so much progress to make when it comes to talking openly about mental health. The main problem is that so many people don't understand mental illness, so it is often dismissed as an unimportant issue. This misunderstanding and dismissal creates a cycle that prevents comprehensive solutions to the challenges that come with mental health.

My mental health exponentially worsened the summer before coming to Hamilton. I was wrestling with my anxiety every day, but refused to tell anybody because if they knew that I was struggling, they would look at me differently. During my freshman year, I upheld this facade through the hardships of the death of my uncle and my mother having a malignant brain tumor. Finally, I reached a point in my freshman spring where I couldn't hold it in anymore and erupted. After years of harmful coping mechanisms and misinformed ideas of mental health, I had no idea how to handle myself. I would cope by being mean to most people, shutting myself in my room and eventually not attending most of my classes.

"These incidents pushed me towards the conclusion that the people around me—no matter how lovely they are—might never view my mental illness properly. However, that shouldn't stop me from caring about myself and my own mental health."

When the absences started piling up and my professors got suspicious, I would tell them about my mom or my uncle. However, I never let them know about the mental health challenges I was facing and that I was dealing with it all horribly; I didn't feel that was an acceptable excuse.

On campus, the Health Center is a great resource—especially in its recently expanded form. However, even when resources are available, it can be hard to seek help for mental health issues. Personally, I often felt ashamed walking into the counseling center because I felt like people were judging me for not being normal. Whenever people found out I was seeing a counselor, the air would immediately become more awkward. Looking back, I don't necessarily think everyone judges people with mental illness. But I do think people just don't know how to respond to the topic. If you feel you don't know how to respond when someone talks about mental health, begin by just listening.

Responses from friends and professors to my situation showed me the persisting lack of understanding with issues with mental health. When I reached out to a professor explaining that I wouldn't be able to come to class because of my poor mental health, she never responded. At the end of the semester, however, she told me she lowered my grade for my "unexcused absences." Trying to talk to friends about my depression elicited responses like "Why? You have so many good things going for you." They didn't understand that when you stop being highly functional, there isn't a reason.

These incidents pushed me towards the conclusion that the people around me—no matter how lovely they are—might never view my mental illness properly. However, that shouldn't stop me from caring about myself and my own mental health. By the end of my sophomore year, I began to accept the state of my mental health. I accepted that the amount that I am able to function on a daily basis might change because of my "mood swings" but that I have to treat high functioning Grace and low functioning Grace with the same amount of care and self-love.

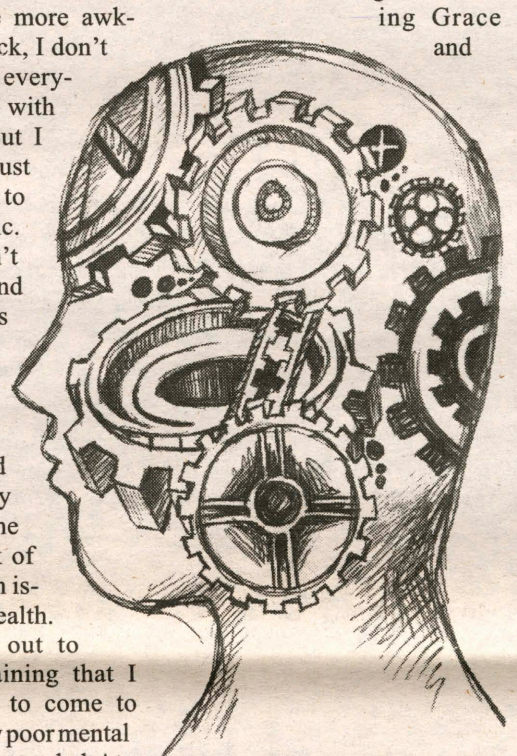


ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

As a senior, I am a confident person and I love myself deeply. But I still get hit sometimes by my depression and anxiety so hard that it takes time to stand back up. I have de-stigmatized mental illness for myself and most of my friends have come to learn—through their own struggles or through sticking with me through mine—that mental illness is not the demon we often make it out to be. I am proud that I can talk frankly about mental health with my close friends in a constructive and beneficial way. Yet, these conversations mostly happen in closed circles. I know I am not the only person who struggles with mental illness on this campus and I am lucky to have learned how to cope with it the way I have. Among my friends and me it does not feel like a stigmatized topic. But there are many times on this campus when it still feels like an unspeakable monster.

Despite how progressive and understanding Hamilton's campus is, sometimes there are little things like "unexcused absences" on report cards and "why are you depressed?" comments that perpetuate the implicit social denial and stigma of mental illness as a serious issue. Groups like Minds for Change and their Speak Out events contribute positively to destigmatizing mental illness, yet there is still more to be done. While many people on the Hill are trying hard to promote open discussions about mental health issues, this supportive community is not reflective of the overarching stigma surrounding mental health problems that persists off the Hill.

One of the main benefits of a liberal arts education is the emotional growth that each student experiences by being exposed to a wide range of topics and discussions. We will not be able to grow in this way if we don't push to destigmatize open discussions and expression of mental health.

Hey, teachers: let's make reading fun again

by Will Kaback '20
OPINION EDITOR

During the second week of Winter Break, I sat down and did something I had not done in months. What was I up to? Reading. For fun.

For some, such an undertaking would be true rarity akin to lobster tail, international travel or a matching pair of socks. The notion of having enough time to read for pleasure, rather than for an assignment or research? Preposterous. Personally, the last time I remember having enough free time to read for fun consistently was middle school. Even then, amidst a furor of Abraham Lincoln biographical essays and health class doldrums, the act of spending time with a book of choice was becoming elusive.

How did we come to this point, where pleasure reading is like a foreign entity? The days of *Harry Potter* and *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, Roald Dahl and Cornelia Funke, fantasy and grandeur, have long ago been enshrined in my mind as golden moments of childhood. But why do those have to be times of the past?

It is a shame that reading for pleasure has become a casualty of age. A 2014 study by Common Sense Media found that 22 percent of 13-year-olds and 27 percent of 17-year-olds "hardly ever" read for fun. 30 years ago, those numbers were 8 and 9 percent, respectively.

There are many factors to explain this, like the rise in smartphones and uber-realistic video games that take up more and more of everyone's time, not just kids. But for high-schoolers and college students, the crushing amount of assigned texts relegates everything else to the sideline. We are still reading, just not for fun, and the often tedious or sweeping nature of these books and articles consume not just time, but also motivation to read any more than what is required.

For teachers in any discipline, reading for pleasure should be a course initiative. The Reading Agency of the United Kingdom found that such pursuits "can result in increased empathy, improved relationships with others, reductions in the symptoms of depression and dementia, and improved wellbeing." We should not only endorse these characteristics for their human benefits, but also because they translate to success in the classroom. *The Guardian*'s Dan Hurley writes that "reading and intelligence have a relationship so close as to be symbiotic."

Some professors at the College have made this realization and incorporated it into their syllabus. Last semester, I had my pick of multiple books, fiction and nonfiction alike, to choose from for a Religious Studies class. I enjoyed the invigorating sense of freedom that came with having the power to choose what I would read. And, believe it or not, I was able to simultaneously enjoy reading the book and connect it to the course content.

Such measures are great, but I would go even further. Why not, once or twice a month, have the only homework assignment be to pick up a book of choice and spend an hour diving in? Sure, there's no way to guarantee that a student would follow through on this undertaking, but I'd say this possibility shouldn't outweigh the gains that stand to be made. Even if only a few students followed through, the enrichment they would attain is well worth giving everyone else a night off from homework. I tend to believe, however, that it wouldn't just be a few students, and a new crop of excited readers could be cultivated.

Everyone would appreciate a break from scholarly articles and primary documents every now and then. Reading is well ingrained in the College's culture, but only a certain type. Let's broaden our range and make a concerted effort to bring back reading for pleasure. The benefits are clear and the drawbacks minimal. This directive is levied equally against students and faculty, but it has to start with the latter. Reading is fun and boundless and deserves to be enjoyed in all forms. Let's stop thinking of reading for pleasure as a thing of our younger years and instead make it a lifelong pursuit.

Democratic Discussion • Lessons from 2016

by Peter Yang '20
Staff Writer

It is reasonable to prophesize that 2017 is going to be a year of drama and uncertainty. Ever since the political shakeup sent a shockwave across the country, there has been no lack of political movements and clashing of opinions. From the controversial decisions made by our new president during his first week of office to the anti-abortion right rally in Washington last, these events brought unsettling news. Unfamiliar with America's complicated political landscape, I was nevertheless impressed by the actions taken by such diverse groups of people to defend the values they believe in. An indignant sentiment looms over the public forum and it continues to burn and boil ever since the night when the election results came out. I don't comprehend this sentiment entirely, but I have learned much through witnessing as well as participating in the actions in response to the new presidency.

I was not at all familiar with the concept of democracy. But after years of living in democratic societies I gradually began to gain insight of what constitutes a democracy. In an ideal democracy, concepts such as good or bad don't exist, and no one should be labeling themselves and others as good or bad. Discussion, the heart of democracy, shouldn't be hindered by difference in opinion, background and status. Instead, the difference is exactly what makes these discussions valuable so that both sides can learn something from each other and hopefully start to compromise. After all, without the exchange of ideas and the clashing of arguments, a democracy would mean nothing. In last year's election, many progressive thinkers made a crucial mistake by essentially blocking all communications between themselves and those they deemed backward and therefore, unworthy. It is a human nature to prefer conversing with those who agrees with us, but it is equally important to know the other side of the argument if we are to exert influence over those who haven't made up their minds or to convince our adversaries to look at issues from our point of view. A lack of open discussion in our society was what caused disbelief and confusion after the election as many Democrats underestimated the Republican voters. In the days leading up to the election, the internet was filled with messages that mercilessly vilified Donald Trump supporters, and sometimes all Republicans. These kinds of messages helped divide people into factions based on geography, education, income, race and ethnicity. And as a result of this division, an atmosphere of toxic antagonism was produced.

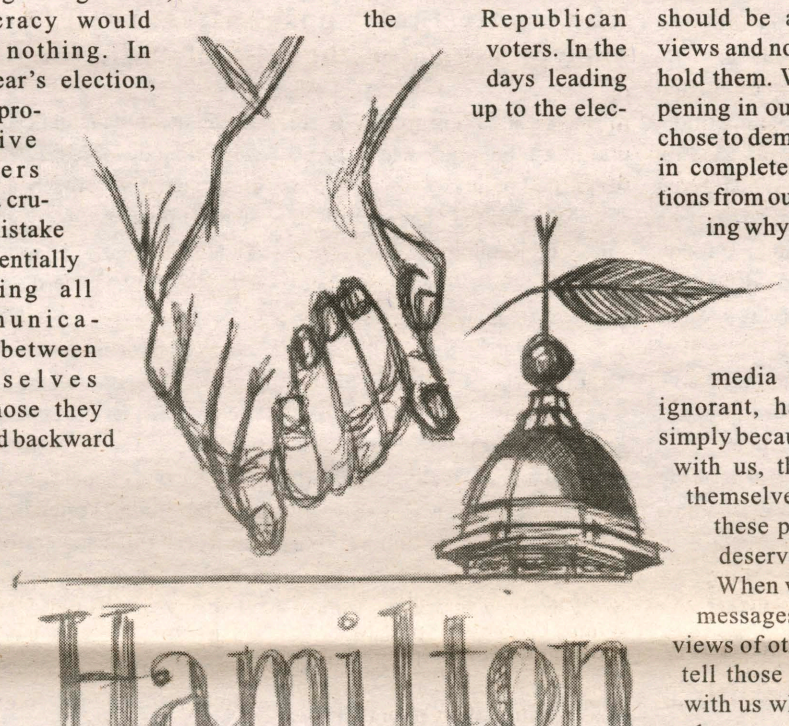


ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

It is normal for those holding different views to antagonize each other but that antagonism should be aimed at political views and not at the people who hold them. What has been happening in our society is that we chose to demonize people living in completely different conditions from our and stop questioning why we don't like them. Even the most "progressive" among us share memes on social media labeling others as ignorant, hateful and selfish simply because they don't agree with us, then repeatedly tell themselves that the voices of these people simply don't deserve to be considered. When we try to spread our messages, and influence the views of others, all we did was tell those who already agree with us why we are right and they are wrong. We essentially build up a huge "safe" bubble and cuddle with our friends inside, while blocking our ears so all the noise made by people who don't agree with us could not be heard. I have seen very few examples of people walking up to a political adversary with a smile and simply asking: "hello, can we sit down and discuss why we are here doing what we are doing?" Instead, all I have seen was people hurling themselves against each other on the streets during rallies and protests, armed to the teeth, shouting profanity.

Aristotle wrote in *Metaphysics*: "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." As members of an educated community, I think we can all take a moment to think about how this lesson can help us endure what is to come in the next four years. I have heard tales about the founding fathers of this country they call the greatest on earth, about how a group of men with different views and beliefs came together and engaged in the rational discussion that resulted in the birth of a nation. We members of an educated community ought to act as vanguards and pioneers in changing the way we act, as well as in healing a nation deeply divided.

When will your reflection show...

ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

... your experience at Hamilton?

We're now looking for seniors willing to write about their reflections. If you're interested, email us at featspec@hamilton.edu.

Jealous you weren't picked to be the Bachelorette or Bachelor of the week? Nominate yourself or others by emailing featspec@hamilton.edu

Mr. Right for Mr. Hamilton

by Rachel Zuckerman '19
Staff Writer

With the atrocities that we call an upstate New York winter finally hitting hard enough that Hamilton students are refusing to leave their beds, except for the occasional meal or participation-heavy class, FebFest has come to the rescue. To start off the week-long celebration, Social Traditions held their annual Mr. Hamilton pageant the evening of Monday, Feb. 13.

The night was broken up into three categories: eveningwear, talent and a question and answer session. While each of the ten contestants garnered applause and cheers from the crowd during their bios, it was not until the talent section that both the judges and the audience understood what was to come.

Talents almost exclusively consisted of comedy or song; Mr. Mathletics, Alex E. Black '19, shocked the crowd by peeling an orange, eating the peel, then throwing the edible part of the fruit into the audience. Mr. HAVOC, James Mesiti '17, called his muse, Olivia from Ohio, onto the stage before stripping down and canola-oiling up to read her some Spanish poetry, that, I regret to inform you, very few audience members understood. We can only hope it was rated PG-13.

Other crowd pleasers included Mr. Duel Observer, Brian Burns' '17, politically charged "F*ck It Diet" which, he says, has caused him to gain 10 or so pounds since Election Day; Mr. Duelly Noted, Ben Goldman's '17 impressive strut and dance in what appeared to be five inch heels (that judge and Dean of Students Nancy Thompson said she'd love to borrow (and we agree) and the "Ode to President Wippman," as performed by Mr. Yodapez, Alex Fugeson '17.

In terms of the question and answer portion of the competition, Mr. Swim & Dive, Ryan Cassidy '17 stole the show. When asked where he would want to go if he could go back in time, Cassidy said, "I would have to say Oct. 12, 2013 in Bundy Dining Hall because I would really like to remember what happened that night." We've all been there Mr. Swim, but not all of us want to remember.

Further thought-provoking responses included Goldman's response of, "more queer students" to the question asking how to make Hamilton grounds safer while maintaining environmental friendliness; Andrew Fletcher '17, Mr. Curling's response of "Wait, we have a streaking policy? There shouldn't be one" when asked about said policy.

PHOTO BY JADE THOMAS '20

The contestants pose after their performances vying for the title of "Mr. Hamilton."

All in all the pageant proved quite entertaining and the perfect start to FebFest. When asked about her favorite contestant, Sara Luster '19 said, "I really liked Mr. Deadline Ahoy because his dance was hilarious and creative. I don't know what Deadline Ahoy is and his explanation really wasn't all that helpful but it was really cool to see a first year put himself out there like that."

Clearly, contestants from a wide variety of clubs partook in the competition and, despite the popular vote leaning towards Mr. Mathletics for his dark and awkward comedy, or Mr. HAVOC for his preemptive oil-rub and sexy Spanish poetics, Mr. Event Staff, Aidan Costello '20 went home with the $100 gift card and honor of being this year's Mr. Hamilton.

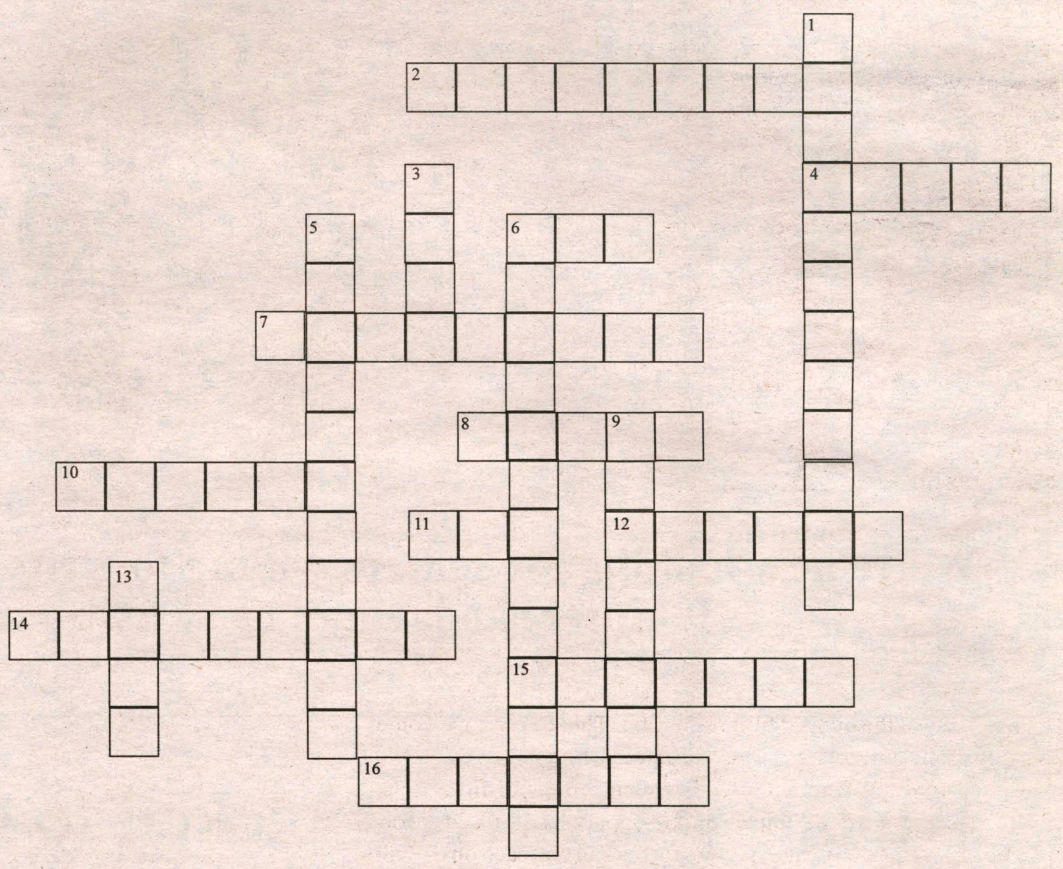
When asked about his win on, and prior preparation for, Monday evening, Mr. Event Staff said, "In preparation for the competition, I performed my usual ritual of summoning Cthulu. I often do this before a performance as a way to have a slight edge over my opponents. For being on stage, it wasn't too much different than it has been in the past—this time I merely wore a dress. Winning the competition itself shouldn't have been a surprise, but it was since I couldn't remember whether or not I properly mixed the hemlock with pig's blood. I guess Lord Cthulu came through anyway!"

In all seriousness, Costello the man behind Mr. Event Staff, said, "In preparation, I honestly didn't do much other than memorizing the lyrics (which I even messed up) and getting dressed. Being on stage wasn't too different than the past times I've performed, but it was definitely the first time in a dress. However, winning came at a complete surprise to me mostly because of the other great candidates on that stage."

Costello braved the stage in a black dress during the eveningwear section of the evening citing long walks across Martin's Way and "dank memes" as his favorite pastimes. During the talent portion, Costello played the guitar and sang The Black Keys' "Little Black Submarine" and the timeless classic "All Star" by Smash Mouth. Suffice to say, the crowd loved him and sang along to the latter of the two songs. The hosts, Joshua Rothstein '19 and Caroline Kreidberg '17, asked him what is dream date on Hamilton's campus would be, to which he replied, "Diner B and not Bundy."

As winter weather really sets in, we wanted to cheer you up. With March break in the not-too-close future, take a stab at this winter-themed crossword to get you through the next three weeks.

by Cilly Geranios '19 and Molly Geisinger '19
Features Editors



Across:
2. Painfully frozen body parts.
4. A warm caffeinated beverage you cannot make for yourself at Commons or McEwen.
6. "____, _____ baby."
7. Perfectly unique.
8. The island movie which recently came out that we're all watching (let's be honest).
10. A chore children do to clear the sidewalks at home.
11. Req. cough drops and rest to cure.
12. Worn to keep your hands warm.
14. A gift on Valentine's day and also possibly heated as a beverage.
15. A treacherous form of transportation at this time of year.
16. On many beds to warm sleeping bodies and cuddle up to for naps.

Down:
1. The place on campus you visit for #13 down and #11 across.
3. A form of clearing the streets of snow.
5. Many professors may have decided to do this in response to the weather—warming the hearts of students.
6. Creating the homes of eskimos.
9. Below zero.
13. The kissing disease.

Answers from last week: ACROSS: 2. women's march, 3. POTUS, 4. welcome back ,6. syllabus week, 9. new year's resolution, 10. lunar new year DOWN: 1. ice breakers, 3 powclub, 5. CAB, 6. spring, 7. semester, 8. swug.

TEDx at Hamilton College

by Michelle Chung '20
Staff Writer

Speaking, listening and acting proactively and effectively are three of the skill sets that Hamilton embraces, in the hopes that its students will become talented speakers with the ability to one day change the world. During this past weekend at the annual TEDx conference, themed "Against the Grain," four speakers from across the country visited the college campus to offer inspiration for these behavioral goals.

Since the TEDxHamilton-College chapter was founded in 2015, its members wanted to focus on bringing fresh, unique perspectives to speak on campus. TEDxHamiltonCollege curators Alexandru Hirsu '17 and Jeremy Acosta '17 were both part of the original team that worked on the first TEDx conference and helped create the theme for this year's conference. "Against the Grain" focused on how moving away from the norm can be a positive experience.

When asked about the inspiration for the theme, Hirsu reasoned "the theme would suit both the college environment and would be broad enough to include talks from different areas," as one talk focused on going against the grain in a digital world and another talk focused on more personal, direct decisions. Also, "The campus itself fits into the theme very well: students go against the grain coming to a place in a less populated area, far from big cities such as New York or Boston."

Dr. Joe Panepinto '85, currently the Senior Vice President at Genuine, LLC and a Hamilton alum, led the event with his talk titled, "You should also consider…" He questioned how social media algorithms and the computer feature feature phrases such as:"You might also like..." constantly showing users the same types of products, advertisements and ideas over and over again, based on what they've searched for in their history.

Through his proposal, rather than showing products the user would most likely enjoy, the algorithms would show everything the user "should consider" instead, including products that they would probably not immediately think of buying or viewing. According to Panepinto, such features would "fulfill the early promise of the Internet to broaden our points of reference by exposing us to things we wouldn't normally consider."

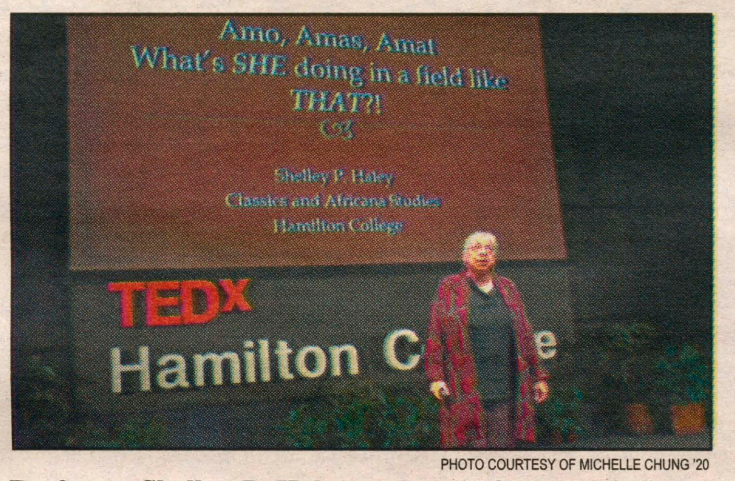


PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE CHUNG '20

Professor Shelley P. Haley was one of several influential speakers who delivered talks at the TEDx event.

Subsequently, speaker Dr. Abby Hardgrove relayed how a conversation with a student got her thinking about the long history of struggle and conflict, in her talk, "Emancipate the Oppressor." With a Ph.D. in Development Studies from the University of Oxford, and a great amount of knowledge on the conflict between youth, especially in developing countries, Hardgrove stated that "the conflict, the exclusion, the prejudice will stop when the privileged among us start admitting how deeply unhappy and hard-hearted we have become."

Dr. Shelley Haley is a Professor of Classics and Africana Studies at Hamilton whose talk "Amo, amas, amat: what's SHE doing in a field like THAT?!" focused on the criticism she received from being a black woman and a feminist who taught in a traditional Humanities discipline. She sad, "I have come to realize that I, like other black women, go against the grain simply because I exist and survive," not following through with many of the expectations and assumptions imposed onto her.

Saxon Kincy, an up-and-coming rapper from L.A., ended the conference with his talk, titled "Do Not Wait," which emphasized the importance of seizing every opportunity, exemplified by his own experiences when he did not wait to get out of homelessness before writing his own music and rapping.

While most artists often sing about lives of luxury and riches, Kincy spoke about how many of his personal experiences didn't live up to those expectations. Even so, he still wrote songs about living in his car and enduring struggles once he "realized [his] story was valuable because it was unique." He enticed the audience to ponder on their own stories, stating, "Think about how we consider collector's items valuable specifically because there are not a lot of them made. Your story isn't boring; it's a collector's item."

TEDx conferences are not only engaging, interesting and simply fun to watch; they are also inspiring, especially in that Hamilton students can listen to the perspectives of others and understand the people around them, possibly taking on new thoughts, ideas and lifestyles.

Connecting communities with Fun(d) Fest

by Maura Colley '19
Features Contributor

Students competed in partner events as well.

Over this past weekend, the Inter-Society Council (ISC) took over the Fieldhouse for a night and threw one of the biggest fundraising events of the year. "The Charity Fun(d) Fest" featured activities and light-hearted competitions between participants. All the proceeds were split between four charities, each of which had its own team: Planned Parenthood, No One Left Behind, the Midtown Utica Community Center (MUCC) and Be the Match.

The activities included a date auction, relay races and even a hot-dog eating contest—and though competitors fought to the finish in each contest, in the end, Be the Match won the event.

Each of these organizations has a meaningful mission. Planned Parenthood supports and educates individuals about health and childcare; No One Left Behind supports allies of the American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan who are displaced because of their association with the US; and Be the Match provides bone marrow transplants for individuals with blood and marrow diseases.

MUCC, the team I was lucky enough to be a part of, is a center in Utica. This center provides a space for families of all backgrounds to come together safely and create an inclusive community. The Center welcomes refugees who come to Utica with few connections or little financial support, and provides food services and outreach opportunities to help get families settled.

The members of the MUCC work incredibly hard to provide Utica families and kids with intercultural opportunities and to encourage kids to try new things like visual arts, dance, theater and music.

While it is easy for us at Hamilton to take for granted how easy it is to simply take a dance or fine arts class, many people, sadly most of them children in school systems without support for arts programs, don't have the same kind of access to these activities.

Fortunately, a group of dancers from the MUCC kicked off the event on Saturday, giving everyone a chance to see what the organization's programs can do for local kids. Comprised of 15 to 20 girls and boys in total, the group performed three impressive dances, with complicated choreography and fun music. It was clear that they were having fun with it, too.

Along with the other work they do, the MUCC has obviously had an important impact on these kids, giving them something creative and exciting to do with their time while making friends in their community.

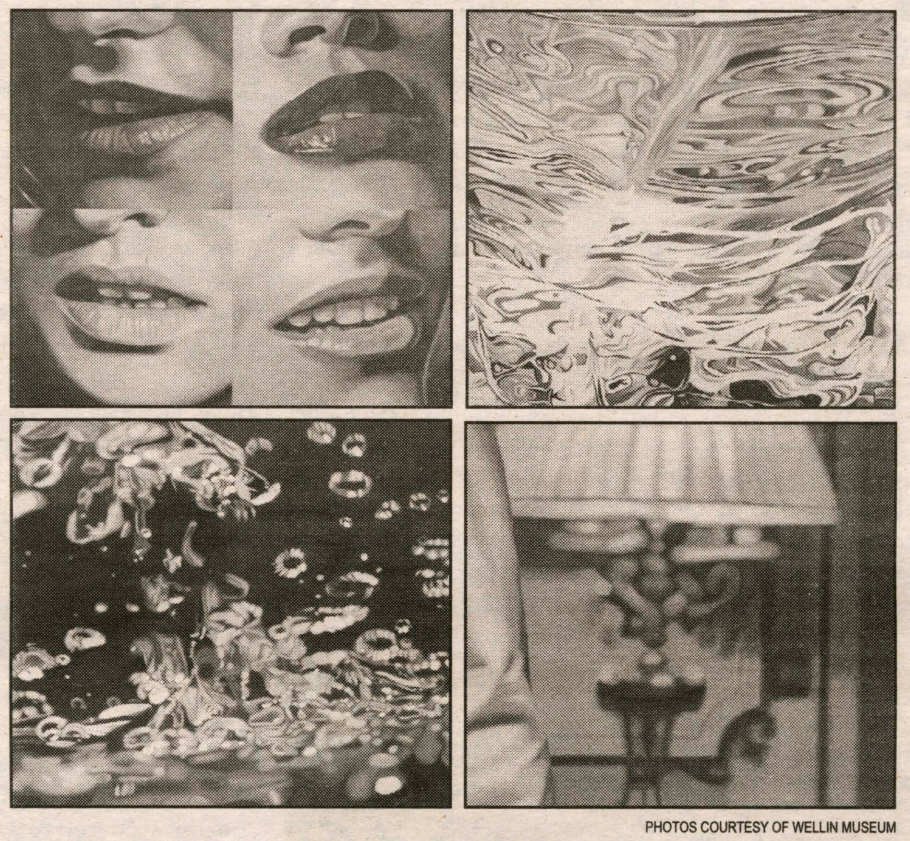
All in all, the ISC charity event was a successful night of community building and fundraising. Greek societies and sports teams from all over campus were present, and contributed to the big turnout for the night. By the end of the event, approximately $4,000 had been raised—and that was just from registration fees alone. With the hundreds raised from the date auction, and ever more from games and activities, all four of the charities are bound to receive a significant contribution from Hamilton College.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHARIF SHRESTHA '17

The Charity Fun(d) Fest had activities such as an eating contest (below) and performances from the MUCC (above).

Jacquette challenges power of consumerism

by Ghada Emish '19
Staff Writer



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WELLIN MUSEUM

American Visual Artist Julia Jacquette's exhibition questions and challenges the role appearance plays in consumers' decisions.

In the contemporary age, visual representation is the primary way people receive information. Some advertisements focus on creating a fantastical aura to produce resonant campaigns for their products. Visual attraction to lavishly advertised products tricks people into consuming products that they do not necessarily need. This Saturday, Feb. 18, is the opening of the exhibition *Unrequited and Acts of Play* at the Wellin Museum. The works in this exhibit, by the American artist Julia Jacquette, have vibrant colors and a glossy texture which echo the alluring, yet misleading appearance of some advertisements.

The title "Unrequited" refers to the un-gratifying effect of extravagant advertisements. Although the level of luxury in such adverts is unrealistic and unattainable, it can be hard to resist the tempting aura of some advertised products. Yet, when people obtain these products, they achieve no sense of fufillment. Essentially, advertisements drive people to consume products that but ultimately leave us feeling unfufilled and unhappy. In this sense, the attraction to luxurious products remains "unrequited."

Some advertisements feature attractive details, such as the wall lamp in *Hotel Room (Sleeve)*, to create an aura of elegance so that the advertised products appear more alluring. *The Mouths of Four Gorgons* shows pictures of a female's open mouth. A gorgon is a grotesque creature therefore making it contradictory to the attractive appearance of female lips. In fact, the paintings in *Four Gorgons* have been made to appear ideal with the use of special effects. However, such pictures drive people to seek a similar appearance—a desire that exercises an unpleasant influence on them since it is an unrealistic goal.

Jacquette sheds light on the romanticization of liquor in some advertisements and films. *Colors from Wine, White* is a color wheel which demonstrates the colors in a picture of a glass of white wine. The color wheel reveals that there are more colors than one might expected in a picture of a wine glass. To offer the audience a meditative comparison between glasses as they appear in advertisements and the color wheel, *Colors from Wine, White* is juxtaposed with works featuring wine glasses. This comparison illustrates the palette of colors used in the advertising of alcohol to make it more visually appealing than it is in real life.

It is worth mentioning that Jacquette collaborated with Hamilton students on creating two murals, *Swimming Pool Water (Hand)* and *Swimming Pool (Reflections of Palm Trees)*. These works elaborate on the fanciful, unrealistic nature of representing water in advertisements.

Since the beginning of its opening in 2012, the Wellin Museum has focused on picking artists who are invested in engaging with the educational community at Hamilton. Artists such as Yun Fei Ji have attended different classes to elaborate on the content of their work. This semester, Jacquette will provide studio critique for senior art projects. *Unrequited and Acts of Play* is Jacquette's first solo show. The Wellin Museum remains committed to featuring underrepresented and showcasing art that is not displayed enough.

By separating these unrealistic pictures from their commercial context, Jacquette enables her audience to contemplate the influence such images have on them. This practice should instill awareness regarding the way people receive visual content from the media on a daily basis.

Visual art is an integral part of modern culture and it is critical to constantly educate ourselves on the methods employed to influence viewers. In this sense, *Unrequited and Acts of Play* definitely functions as an educative and analytical tool of visual culture.

Banff Mountain film fest world tour back on the Hill

by Tayzia Santiago '20
A&E Contributor

The Banff Mountain Film Festival, hosted by the Hamilton Outing Club, presented 11 films about the outdoors and adventures in the KJ Bradford Auditorium on Tuesday, Feb. 14. The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, which has been making Hamilton College one of its many stops since 2000, was founded 41 years ago by the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Banff, Canada. Since then, it has grown into a hugely popular event sponsored by *National Geographic* and The North Face with 1,000 screenings around the world in 40 different countries, and 20,000 people attending the festival in Banff each year.

Unsurprisingly, this worldwide event attracted a large crowd filled with not only students, but also faculty and non-Hamilton affiliated viewers. Although the films did match an overall adventurous and outdoorsy theme, each film carried its own unique and masterful approach to interacting with nature. For example, "Danny MacAskill's Wee Day Out" was an enjoyable, light-hearted short film consisting of playful music and a trick-filled bike ride in beautiful, rural Scotland. The stunts were impressive, entertaining, and called forth the affinity and love many have for nature; nothing in the film was serious or heart-wrenching by any means.

On the other end of the spectrum, "Iran: A Skier's Journey," chronicled Iran's culture through a lens of skiing. This created a unique and captivating perspective on Iranian culture, recreation, and religion, and how those three interact with one another, especially in a society with an overwhelming emphasis on religion. As you can probably guess, these two films' tones were vastly different from one another. Overall, all the films were enjoyable and thought-provoking in their own unique way, and I genuinely enjoyed every single one.

Besides the actual films, the atmosphere was warm and inviting. They even held a raffle, giving out high quality gear by many of their sponsors, including Cliff Bars. I personally won three freeze dried meals by Mountain House, so I'm calling the night a win. Who knows, maybe I'll have a freeze dried breakfast skillet if I can't make it to Commons one morning!

As an Adirondack Adventure leader, outing club leader, and avid proponent for nature, I found that watching films that so artfully captured nature's beauty and the magnificence of man's relationship with nature rekindled my love for it, and passion to explore every crevice of it. A common theme throughout many of the films was an emphasis on love: the importance of loving your family and friends, the value of loving a dog, and the fulfilment of loving nature. In fact, I couldn't think of a better way to spend my time on Valentine's Day.

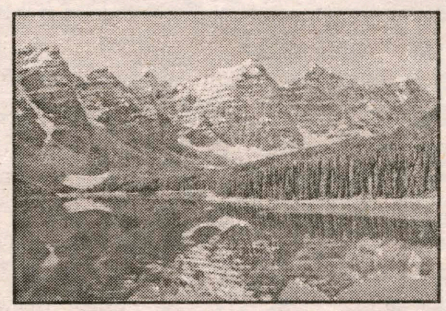


PHOTO BY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, DISTRIBUTED UNDER ACC-BY2.0 LICENSE

The acclaimed film festival began 40 years ago in Banff, Canada.

WHCL 88.7FM

Show Profile:

Hitclips

Sundays at 8 p.m.

with...

Emily Randrup '17
Emily Eisler '17 and
Becca Gorlin '17

Tune into HitClips to be transported into middle school dances, jamming out while layering your Hollister v-neck with the perfect laced tank top, or sitting alone reveling in your preteen angst.

PHOTO BY : JONAS BROTHERS : , DISTRIBUTED UNDER A CC-BY 2.0 LICENSE

The DJs of Hitclips generously provide a glimpse into the time that once was, playing songs by artists such as Fergie when she was Fergalicious, Lil Wayne when he tried to rock, and Baby Bash.

Typical Playlist:

"Bye, Bye, Bye"
- Backstreet Boys

"Why Not"
- Hilary Duff

"Jumpin Jumpin"
- Destiny's Child

"Year 3000"
-Jonas Brothers

Established in 1941, WHCL is a non-profit, student-run, free-form radio station. Located atop College Hill in the beautiful village of Clinton, New York, it boasts 270 watts of power and runs 20 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Femme: an evening of vulnerability, compassion and beauty

By Audrey Darnis '18
A&E Contributor

On February 14, 2017, the Womxn's Center hosted Femme, described in the program as, "a collection of monologues written and performed by women, trans, and non-binary students."

The Hamilton College Womxn's Center is an organization led by women that are dedicated to fighting for social justice and equality, with a particular focus on how these issues affect the lives of women.

The performances emanated from a wide variety of intersecting identities and experiences, which made for a powerfully feminist and beautifully raw evening. The event practically filled the seats of the Events Barn, as well as much of the upper level area.

14 different students performed, representing all four class years at Hamilton. Some of the topics discussed included, but were not limited to, sexual assault, sexuality, race, gender, the intersections of various identities, social criticisms, abuse and romance.

Most of the performers read their own work, or another Hamilton student's work, apart from Hannah Fink '19, who read a piece very relevant to our current political situation, "I Want a Dyke for President." The poem, written by artist and activist Zoe Leonard in 1992, criticizes the rigidity of the few types of identities that are accepted into our presidency. The poem questions why there has yet to be a president that symbolizes a more accurate representation of diverse identities in the United States—not simply the identities that are privileged and hailed.

Most of the other performances concerned either intimate and personal experiences students have had due to their marginalized identities, or overarching critiques of societal standards, whether these standards concern beauty, gender roles, or inequality.

Some of the works that criticized societal standards included a piece by Kateri Boucher '17, and performed by KT Glusac '17. The monologue, entitled "A Better Summer Body in Just 15 Easy Steps," critically and sarcastically challenges the normative constructions of women's beauty standards.

The one line that I found to be particularly striking was, "you are better for being less of you. "Please, Stop Calling Me 'Nice,'" written and performed by Colleen O'Brien '17, covered similar sentiments. O'Brien discussed the gendered implications of calling women nice, and how this word is, in fact, not a compliment.

"Snakes in the Office," written by Kyandreia Jones '19 and performed by Ondine Baptiste '17 was a witty and sarcastic piece that criticized the gender wage gap, which is particularly emphasized when an analysis of race and gender is taken into account.

Maggie Luddy '20 performed "I Do Not Want to Wear a Purse," also by Jones, which criticized certain gender roles and gendered expectations of women, including the need to wear makeup, heels and carry a purse.

Taomi Kenny '20 performed an anonymously written piece titled "Walking, "which describes a woman's frustration whenever she finds herself in a situation where she has to move out of the way for a man while walking on a path.

Other performances were more intimate and personal. These pieces were incredibly powerful due to their vulnerability, truth, and rawness.

Each performer shared their experience with courage, and shone on stage beautifully due to their ability to share their truth. Some of the pieces brought certain audience members to tears, and some even earned standing ovations.

Overall, the unrestrained passion, the unashamed truthfulness, and the heartwarming boldness of each and every performer and writer on the stage at Femme made for an incredible evening of vulnerability, compassion, and beauty.

PHOTOS BY LILY YANGCHEN '20

The third annual event gives femme identifying students the opportunity to voice their concerns about wideranging topics every Valentine's Day.

Symphor!a to bring its best set yet this weekend

from ***Symphor!a****, page 1*

Vähälä made her debut with the Sinfonia Lhati Symphony Orchestra at the age of 12 and was chosen as the orchestra's 'young master soloist." In her professional adult career, Vähälä has appeared on international stages, and will now be performing for us at Hamilton.

The most famous piece in the concert, John Corigliano's "Chaconne," which he wrote for the film *The Red Violin,* moved Vähälä immediately upon her first time hearing it, so much so that she decided to add it to her repertoire and began performing it as soon as Joshua Bell lost exclusive rights to it in 2006. What she has found so mesmerizing about the score of *The Red Violin* is first and foremost its variety between each movement.

Vähälä said, regarding the "Chaconne," "this piece has a deep emotional content all the time which the listener can really identify with. That's what makes me want to play this piece over and over again. I wouldn't do it if there weren't something that moved your soul. I need that in the music." Vähälä has performed the piece dozens of times as well as recorded it. According to Rabinowtiz, she is the only person to perform the piece other than Joshua Bell. He stated," She captures every nuance of the piece."

In addition to Corigliano's "Chaconne," Samuel Barber's one movement "Symphony No. 1" is being performed. Barber is known to be a true competitor of Corigliano's in terms of great American composers.

Barber is also well known as the composer of "Adagio for Strings," the soundtrack to the movies *Platoon*, *Manchester by the Sea*, and many others. It was also features on *South Park* and *The Simpsons* and was used to commemorate Kennedy's death. "Symphony No. 1" is said to be equally emotionally compelling as Corigliano's piece. Conductor Loh stated, "It has all the things you love about Barber, and more of the drama."

In addition to Corigliano's and Barber's pieces, the more lighter-spirited "Redline Tango" by John Mackey and "An American in Paris" by George Gershwin will be performed on Sunday.

The title "Redline Tango" contains a double meaning referring to the New York subway line that connects Mackey's apartment and the Brooklyn Academy of Music where his work premiered. The title simultaneously refers to "redlining an engine" or 'pushing it to a limit' more colloquially, which is said to become evident upon listening to the piece.

Meanwhile, Gershwin's "An American in Paris" was composed in 1928 giving us a taste of American jazz, or more accurately a Frenchman's interpretation of what American jazz sounds like.

Loh stated that the piece is a "depiction of a busy metropolitan downtown that's not American." An extremely familiar work, it has also been interpreted as a work of genius containing richness and depth.

According to Rabinowitz, this will be one of the best concerts ever given by Symphor!a. It hits a younger audience (i.e. college students) and will be somewhat less standard than last year's Symphor!a performance was.

In general it will consist of pieces that are romantic, all-American and strikingly emotional. Rabinowitz described each piece as "entirely different but equally gripping" as they contain "melodic appeal combined with muscle."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEX STROEMER '18

Symphor!a performs in Wellin Hall last Spring.

Mangia Mancina's
WOOD FIRED PIZZA
'Experience the taste of Naples'
Only 90 Seconds in our 800+ degree oven

10% off with valid student ID

315-864-3728
8636 Seneca Turnpike
New Hartford

Beer and Wine available!

CALL TOLL FREE
844-847-6083
CONFIDENTIAL

FREE CONSULTATION
FACULTY STAFF AND
STUDENT DISCOUNT

The Law Offices of
Daniel N. Cafruny, Esq.
Attorney at Law

34 Oxford Road
New Hartford, NY 13413
cafrunylaw@gmail.com

Tel 315-765-0610
Fax 315-765-0710
Toll Free 844-847-6083

Criminal Defense
Sexual Harassment
Traffic Tickets
Personal Injury
Employment Discrimination
New York State and Federal Law

beer here

5% Off*

All Craft Beer With ID

*Not valid on already marked sale items

Crossroads Plaza
8411 Seneca Turnpike, Suite 109
New Hartford, NY 13413
Across From Pizza Hut

(315) 316-0723
beerhere.beer

Women's basketball misses playoffs but has strong potential for future success

by Robert Berk '20
Staff writer

Women's basketball finished their 2016-2017 campaign last Saturday. They finished the season with a 10-12 record. That is a two-win improvement on last season. It is even more impressive when one considers that the team played two fewer games this year than last. Their winning percentage last year was .333 but jumped up over a hundred points to .455.

One of the highlights of the season was a stretch in which the team won five consecutive games. After a couple close losses at the Williams Classic and to SUNY Polytechnic, the Continentals earned their first win of the season against Utica College. The Continentals were only up two at the half, but took control down the stretch and won by nearly 20 points. The final score was 64-46, and Lauren Getman '18 put in a game high 28 points. The next game was a tight victory at Union, 61-55. The game was close throughout, but Hamilton was able to hold on. Getman had a double-double and Mackenzie Aldridge '20 totaled 21 points. The next two games were a pair of blow-outs. The first was a whopping 64-27 victory over Bard, which was the Continentals first win in the Margaret Scott Bundy Field House. The second was a 91-52 thrashing of Cazenovia College in which four of Hamilton's athletes scored double-digit points. A close victory against Alfred University closed out the win streak. Halie Serbent '19 led the way with 18 points.

After returning to campus from break during the first weekend of the New Year, Hamilton earned their first NESCAC win. They were away against Wesleyan College: it was a thrilling game. The Wesleyan Cardinals had the lead the entire first half and were up by 16 in the third quarter. However, the Continentals roared back, going on a 13-0 run to get back into the game. The game went back and forth the rest of the way. The Continentals got just their second lead of the game with five minutes left to go in the fourth quarter; their first lead was right off the tip-off two to nothing. Carly O'Hern '20 led the Continentals in scoring, contributing 11 points off the bench. Hamilton's depth was a key reason for this victory. They outscored the Cardinal bench 22-9.

Hamilton's two other conference wins were also close, competitive games. The Continentals had a come-from-behind win over Middlebury. The Panthers were up 27-22 at the half; however, they could not stop Hamilton's offense in the fourth quarter. The team totaled a very impressive 27 points in just that one quarter. A key reason for this success was their efficiency. They shot eight of 16 from the field and made all of their free-throws count, hitting nine of 11, including a clutch performance in the last minute of the game in which they hit seven out of eight. They took the lead by going on a 13-2 run that completely stunned the Panthers. The Continentals were dominant on the glass, grabbing 37 rebounds to Middlebury's 29. The following weekend, Hamilton had another thrilling victory. Before the game, the team honored Caroline Barrett '17 and Kate Bushell '17 as a part of senior weekend. They beat Colby 60-53. The Continentals were trailing for the majority of the game before going on an eight to zero run to close out the fourth quarter. Barrett contributed 11 points. Getman dominated in the paint, putting together her third double-double of the season with 19 points and 10 rebounds. These two players, Barrett and Getman, scored 17 of the team's 19 fourth quarter points.

The future is very bright for this Hamilton squad. The top six leading scorers are all returning next year and three of them are first-years. Four of the five leading rebounders are also returning for the 2017-18 season. Getman lead the team in scoring with 10.5 points per game and tied for the lead in rebounds, tallying 5.7 per game. She will be back for what should be a big senior season next year.

This season was a success as the team improved and gained experience, but make sure to look out for even better things from this group next year.

NESCAC Playoff Watch

M. and W. hockey teams have shot at top seed

Women's Hockey			
Place	School	Conf.	Overall
1	**Hamilton**	**9-4-1**	**14-6-2**
	Middlebury	9-4-1	14-6-2
3	Conn. Coll.	9-5	13-7-2
4	Bowdoin	7-5-2	12-7-3
	Williams	7-5-2	10-10-2
6	Trinity	7-6-1	8-12-2
7	Amherst	5-5-2	11-7-4
8	Wesleyan	4-8-2	7-10-4
9	Colby	0-15-1	1-19-3

The Hamilton women's hockey team is currently locked in a tie for the top spot in the NESCAC with Middlebury, and has a chance to square off against the eighth seed in the playoffs next weekend. Hamilton has a tough roadtrip to New London, C.T. this weekend, where they will take on the Camels of Connecticut College, who currently sit in third place in the conference and are within striking distance of the first seed themselves. Clinching the first overall seed would guarantee home-ice advantage throughout the entire playoffs, although th e Continentals have been dominant on the road this season, losing just one regulation contest away from Russell Sage Rink. Middlebury will have a tough opponent themselves in Williams in a home-away double header this weekend. The Continentals will hope to sustain momentum from this past weekend's thrilling sweep of then-No. 9 Amherst at home. Katie Parkman '17 had a stand-out weekend, earning NESCAC player of the week honors for her two goals in the last 1:46 to force overtime and an eventual victory on Friday night.

Men's Hockey			
Place	School	Conf.	Overall
1	Williams	10-3-3	13-6-3
2	**Hamilton**	**9-3-4**	**15-3-4**
3	Colby	9-4-3	11-6-4
4	Trinity	9-5-2	13-6-3
5	Wesleyan	7-5-4	12-6-4
6	Amherst	7-6-3	12-6-3
	Tufts	8-7-1	10-9-3
8	Bowdoin	5-11-0	8-14-0
9	Conn. Coll.	2-12-2	4-15-2
	Middlebury	3-13-0	3-17-2

The men's hockey team similarly has a chance to claim the NESCAC's top seed heading into the playoffs. Despite possessing the best overall record, Williams has one conference win in hand over the Continentals heading into the final weekend of regular season play. Hamilton will take on Middlebury, a team eliminated from playoff contention, on Friday as a warm-up for Saturday's game against the NESAC-leading Ephs squad. With a win against Middlebury, Saturday's game could prove the deciding matchup over the first seed and home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs. The two teams played to a 3-3 draw in early December. The men's team has lost only one game at Sage Rink this season, so playing at home would provide a boost to the surging Continentals. Williams will play Amherst on Friday night. Hamilton has dominated defensively this season, and will look to continue its hard-nosed approach through the final two games and into the playoffs. If the Continentals clinch the first seed in the playoffs, they will take on Bowdoin in the opening round, a team that the Continentals swept in two games this season.

Men's hockey closes out season at home against Middlebury and Williams

from M. Hockey page 16

mance in which he held the opposing team to just one goal. Also notable was Connecticut goaltender Avery Gobbo '20, who allowed just two goals on 34 shots for a 0.941 save percentage.

Hamilton faced another tough opponent in Tufts University (NESCAC 8-7-1) on Feb. 12, and this time capitalized on young talent to win another conference game. First-year Nick Ursitti '20 scored off of a rebound mid-way through the first period to get an early lead. His goal was answered late in the second period however, when Tufts scored on a Hamilton College power play for a shorthanded goal.

The third period was marked by incredible Hamilton domination, having had a 15-6 shot advantage. Willett again had great opportunities in the offensive zone, and managed to pick up the assist on a goal by defenseman Bennett Morrison '19 late in the third for the second short-handed goal of the game. Willett's 21 points are ninth in the NESCAC, and he also dominated face-offs on the night, winning 15 of 19. Tufts pulled their goalie with 1:35 left in regulation in an attempt to make a late-game comeback, but Tyler Bruneteau '18 managed to score his eighth goal of the season on the empty net to seal the Hamilton win. Goaltender Buitenhuis's 0.949 overall save percentage is now first in the NESCAC, and his streak of holding the opposing team to one goal continued to four games with the Feb. 12 victory.

Second-place Hamilton returns to home ice this weekend at the Russel Sage Rink with two NESCAC games, against the first place and the last place teams. The Feb. 17 game is against Middlebury, who hold the last place spot with a record of 3-13-0 in the division. The Feb. 18 game has the Continentals facing number one Williams College, which could provide Hamilton an opportunity to take first place in the division just short of playoff seeding.

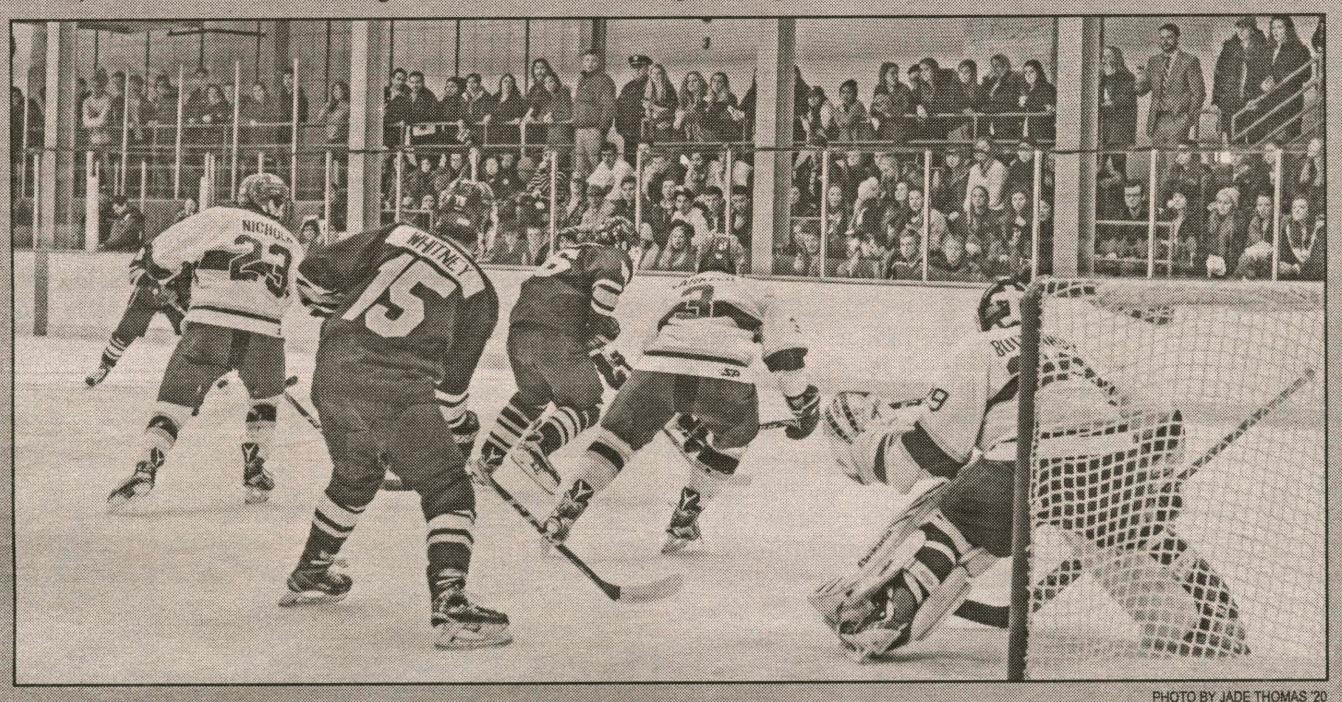


PHOTO BY JADE THOMAS '20

Goalie Evan Buitenhuis '18 leads the conference in both winning and save percentage.

Men's basketball takes on top-seed Tufts in NESCAC playoff opener

from M. Basketball page 16

When asked which elements of their game the Continentals needed to excel at in order to defeat Tufts, who finished with a 19-5 record overall, Stockwell explained, "We are looking at our depth, pace of play, our shooting ability, and team chemistry as our primary strengths heading into Saturday." Stockwell also added that the team is hard at work to perfect its game and improve upon its weaknesses, saying that they "are focusing on the little details that make such a large difference over the course of the game whether it is our decision making, shot selection, boxing out, or the proper spacing on the court." More specifically, veteran Wes Wilbur '17 adds, "One of our main focuses is to limit their transition game while creating more transition opportunities for us. Our transition offense has been really successful all year, and if we can get it going it is going to be good for us."

Hamilton finished conference play on a 1-3 skid, and with this slide they fell out of position for a home playoff game. While they may not have momentum going into the playoffs, they are not letting the slump affect their outlook: "certainly losing three of our last four was disappointing but we are really looking forward to this weekend to get a chance to play a team that we have played already," said Wilbur, who added, "We have a game... at SUNY Cobleskill where we will try to sure up everything for Saturday at Tufts."

PHOTO BYJULIAN PERRICONE '20

Men's basketball will look to upset the top-ranked Jumbos on Saturday.

> **"We are looking at our depth, pace of play, our shooting ability, and team chemistry as our primary strengths heading into Saturday."**
> *—Coach Adam Stockwell*

The Continentals took care of business in that game against Cobleskill on Tuesday, defeating the Fighting Tigers 79-76. Gilmour led the charge for the Continentals, scoring 19 points while grabbing six rebounds and picking up two steals and assists apiece. Hoffman also had an outstanding game, totaling 18 points and seven rebounds as well. Tim Doyle '19 was Hamilton's third double-digit scorer, finishing with 13 points in his third start on the season, while Dwyer dished out seven assists.

All season, Hamilton has remained confident in the face of tough losses. "The way our team is and has been all year is that we're all pretty sure of our abilities and are confident," noted Wilbur. He believes this game is no different: "The message will always read the same, if we play our hardest and our best, we are good enough to beat anyone." While winning three games against the conference's best teams is no easy task, The Continentals believe it can be done and are doing their best to remain calm, work hard and treat each game just as they have every other. Wilbur reaffirmed this belief, saying, "As for the tournament itself, we're going into it just as three more games. Overhyping and overthinking isn't good for anyone." Hamilton has the ability to win this tournament but needs to work hard and execute to do so. Says Wilbur: "Going into these games knowing that if we play hard and play well we can beat anyone is all we need to be thinking about." With the right mentality, tireless intensity and inspired performance, the Continentals just might take home the NESCAC crown.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
February 16, 2017

Men's basketball relishes opportunity to prove themselves in NESCAC playoffs

by Levi Lorenzo '19
Sports Editor

	1	2	F
SUNY Cobleskill	41	35	76
Hamilton	**33**	**46**	**79**

	1	2	F
#8 Amherst	**44**	**42**	**86**
Hamilton	36	39	75

Any team seeded last in a playoff tournament knows it is an underdog. That said, every team in the playoffs cherishes its opportunity and believes they can win. While the men's basketball team is seeded eighth in the eight-team NESCAC playoff tournament, the players are not short on optimism. Hamilton faces a daunting task: they will have to win three games on the road against the conference's best teams. In the NESCAC playoffs, unlike in some other tournaments such as the Division I basketball playoffs, the teams are reseeded after each round. Hamilton, as the lowest-seed in the tournament, will have to face the highest-seeded team remaining in each round.

Hamilton's first challenge is this Saturday, when the Continentals travel to Medford, MA to take on the top seeded Tufts Jumbos. The Jumbos boast an 8-2 conference record and defeated Hamilton 94-81 in Medford when they last met on Jan. 14. Tufts' two conference losses came at the hands of Amherst, the NESCAC regular season runner-up, and Bates, who claimed the seventh seed over Hamilton on a head-to-head play tiebreaker. The Continentals are not afraid of this match-up and, in fact, look forward to the chance at a re-match with the Jumbos. Hamilton Head Coach Adam Stockwell commented that, "We are excited about the opportunity to compete against Tufts in the playoffs. After playing there in the regular season and not having one of our stronger games, we are excited to show that we are a better team than we showed in that game."

Pete Hoffman '19, Michael Grassey '19 and Kena Gilmour '20 figure to lead this young team in the playoffs; all three averaged double digit points this season, with Hoffman scoring 16.9 per game, Grassey 13.0 and Gilmour 12.0. Andrew Groll '19 has been the leading rebounder for the Continentals, pulling down 7.7 per game, with Grassey and Hoffman not far behind in second and third with 6.5 and 5.6 respectively. Point guard Jack Dwyer '18 who, along with Groll, were the only players to start all 23 games, is the team's key distributor, averaging 5.5 assists per game. Dwyer, Groll, Grassey, Hoffman and Joe Pucci '18 accounted for all but four of the team's 115 starts on the season heading into the Cobleskill game. While Gilmour averaged just 18 minutes per game, he made the most of his playing time in his first season.

see ***M. Basketball,*** *page 15*

PHOTO BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN '17

Joe Pucci '18 has been a consistent playmaker in the Continentals' starting rotation all season.

Men's hockey sweeps weekend to claim second place in NESCAC standings

by Grace Myers '19
Sports Contributor

	1	2	3	F
Williams	0	1	0	1
#9 Hamilton	**1**	**0**	**2**	**3**

	1	2	3	F
Conn. Coll.	1	0	0	1
#9 Hamilton	**1**	**0**	**1**	**2**

This past weekend was an exciting whirlwind for the Hamilton College men's hockey team, whose victories against two NESCAC rivals came in the last minutes of each game. Fresh faces carried the team on the Feb. 10 and Feb. 12 games against Connecticut College and Tufts University respectively, with two of the goals coming from first-year students. After splitting last weekend's series and taking two ties on the series the weekend prior, the double wins are a huge help to the team, especially in guaranteeing a home seed in playoffs. The Continentals now hold possession of second place in the NESCAC conference with a solid record of 9-3-4, only one win behind first-place Williams College.

PHOTO BY AMELIA BOYD '20

The Continentals hope to end the regular season with wins on home ice.

The Feb. 10 away game versus Connecticut College (NESCAC 2-12-2) was a nail-biter to the very last second. Forward Brandon Willett '18 played solidly throughout the entire weekend and responded to an early Connecticut goal to tie the game 1-1 after 20 minutes of play. With this goal, Willett now leads the Continentals in goals with 12 on the season. The tie remained through the next two periods, though Hamilton had the clear offensive advantage with the shots on goal reading 34-18 in favor of the Continentals by the end of the game.

The tie-breaker came with just two tenths of a second left to play in the third, with forward Jason Brochu '19 scoring the game-winning goal. It was the first time that Hamilton has scored a game-winning goal in the final minute of regulation in over seven years. Evan Buitenhuis '18 continued his exemplary goaltending, with the Friday game marking his third consecutive perfor-

see ***M. Hockey,*** *page 15*